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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 KINSHASA 000218

SENSITIVE
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SUBJECT: Cabinet Reshuffle Announced Over Weekend; Impact Still
Uncertain

¶1. 1. (U) On February 20 President Kabila announced a new cabinet, his third since taking office in December 2006. Also included in the announcement are the names of a new special advisor for security affairs, as well as a new chief of staff. Analysis of the new cabinet's likely impact, as well information on new ministers, will follow via septels.

¶2. 2. (SBU) Although the overall changes were not significant, there were several items of note: The cabinet has decreased from a total of 54 members to 43. In addition, just over half (7) of the vice ministries were retained from a previous total of 13. Prime Minister Muzito retained his position, as did a number of other important ministers, notably Alexis Thambwe MWAMBA (Foreign Affairs); Lambert MENDE (Communications); Raymond TSHIBANDA (International and Regional Cooperation); Charles MWANDO Simba (Defense); Olivier KAMITATU (planning); Jose ENDUNDU (Environment); and Martin KABWELULU (Mining). The most significant changes were that of the finance and budget ministers. Also Deputy Mining Minister Victor KASONGO, a powerful force in the previous Mining Ministry, did not remain in the new ministry. The former Minister of Health, eliminated during the October 2008 cabinet reshuffle, was reinstated in his previous position. None of the cabinet members have a noticeable CNDP affiliation.

¶3. 3. (U) The new cabinet is as follows (asterisk * denotes the minister was retained from the previous cabinet):

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERS

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Employment, Labor and Social Welfare: Fran????ois-Joseph Nzanga MOBUTU Ngbangawe *

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Security: Adolphe LUMANU MULENDA Bwana N'sefu

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Postal Services, Telephones and Telecommunications: Simon BULUPIY GALATI

MINISTERS

Minister of Foreign Affairs: Alexis THAMBWE MWAMBA *

Minister of International and Regional cooperation: Raymond
TSHIBANDA N'TUNGAMULONGO *

Minister of National Defense and Veterans: Charles MWANDO SIMBA *

Minister of Justice and Human Rights: LUZOLO BAMBI LESSA *

Minister of Decentralization and Territorial Organization: Antipas
MBUSA NYAMWISI *

Minister of Relations with the Parliament: Richard MUYEJ MANGENZ
MANS

Minister of Communications and Media: Lambert MENDE OMALANGA *

Minister of Finance: MATATA PONYO MAPON

Minister of Budget: Jean-Baptiste NTAHWA KUDERWA BATUMIKE

Minister of Plan: Olivier KAMITATU ETSU *

Minister of Government-Owned Enterprises: Jeannine MABUNDA LIOKO *

Minister of National Economy: Jean-Marie BULAMBO KILOSHO

Minister of Infrastructures, Public Works and Reconstruction:
Fridolin KASWESHI MUSOKA

KINSHASA 00000218 002 OF 003

Minister of Energy: Gilbert TSHIONGO TSHIBINKUBULA WA TUMBA

Minister of Mines: Martin KABWELULU LABILO *

Minister of Hydrocarbons: C????lestin MBUYU KABANGO *

Minister of Environment, Conservation of Nature and Tourism: Jos????
ENDUNDO BONONGE *

Minister of Transports and Communication ways: Laure-Marie KAWANDA
KAYENA

Minister of Public Health: Victor MAKWENGHE KAPUT *

Minister of Higher Education and Universities: Leonard MASHAKO
MAMBA *

Minister of Primary and Secondary schools and Vocational Training:
Maker MWANGU FAMBA *

Minister of Agriculture: Norbert BASENGEZI KATINTIMA *

Minister of Rural Development: Philippe UNDJI YANGYA

Minister of Industry: Anicet KUZUNDA MUTANGIJI

Minister of Trade and Small and Medium Size Enterprises: Bernard
BIANDO SANGO

Minister of Gender, Women and Children: Marie-Ange LUKIANA
MUFWANKOLO *

Minister of Land Property: Maj KISIMBA NGOY

Minister of Town planning and Habitat: C????sar LUBAMBA NGIMBI *

Minister of Social Affairs, Humanitarian Action and National
Solidarity: Ferdinand KAMBERE KALUMBI *

Minister of Public Administration: Dieudonn???? UPIRA SUNGUMA KAGIMBI

Minister of Scientific Research: Jean-Pierre BOKOLE OMPOKA

Minister of Culture and Arts: Jeannette KAVIRA MAPERA

Minister of Youth and Sports: Claude BAZIBUHE NYAMUGABO *

VICE-MINISTERS

Vice-Minister of the Interior: Georges ZUKA MON'DO UGONDA-LEMBA

Vice-Minister of Foreign affairs: Ignace GATA MAVITA WA LUFUTA *

Vice-Minister of Finance: Joas MBITSO NGEDZA

Vice-Minister of Budget: Andr???? SHIKAYI LUBOYA BANKINA

Vice-Minister of Trade: Xaverine KAROMBA MITIMITUJE

Vice-Minister of Public Works: Gervais NTIRUMENYERWA KIMONYO *

Vice-Minister of Vocational Training: Arthur SEDEA NGAMO ZABUSU*

¶4. 4. (SBU) Comment: Although many of the major players have remained the same and a cabinet reshuffle had been widely anticipated since July, 2009, the changes in the Finance and Budget ministers and the elimination of the vice minister position in the powerful mines ministry are significant. Vice Minister of Mines Kasongo played a key role in the still ongoing mining contract review process and was considered by many as the real power in the mines ministry. The replacement of Finance Minister Matenda raises questions about the possible impact on the timing of debt rescheduling negotiations planned for this week at the Paris Club

KINSHASA 00000218 003 OF 003

Secretariat. Post will report septel on implications of changes in the key economic ministries on GDRC efforts to reach HIPC completion point before June, 2010 and broader macroeconomic policy. End Comment.
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